

# MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson  
Tim Ochnikowski, Director  
November 10, 2014

## MINUTES

St. John's Properties  
1800 N. Prospect Ave  
1:00 PM

### ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Falk-Palec called the November meeting of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to order at 1:01pm.

### ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chair Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of those present. Commissioners present for the meeting of the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities were:

Luis Arroyo  
Deb Falk-Palec  
John Haupt  
Denise Koss  
Barbara Leigh  
Cheri Mc Grath  
Susan Pickering  
Meg Steimle  
Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki  
Kathryn Zalewski

Absent or Excused:

Tom Jacobs  
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.  
Don Richards

Staff:

Mike Bonk  
Tim Ochnikowski

Guests:

Ron Defney  
Rose Fortney, Eric Hobbs Award Winner  
Tom Kenney, MTS

### ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October)

Commissioner Koss moved approval of the minutes. Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes as approved.

### ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORT

Chair Falk-Palec introduced Commissioner Leigh who will lead the awarding of the 2014 Eric Hobbs Award. Commissioner Leigh discussed the art show and the selection process for the Eric Hobbs Award. A certificate and a \$500 check were presented to Ms. Rose Fortney for her piece of art "Winged Flight." Ms. Fortney thanked the Commission and gave a brief description of the piece and showed the tactile features of the piece. Discussion took place regarding the potential locations to display the piece.

### ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Mr. Kenney gave an update of the New Freedom program and its activities. Operator trainings continue to be provided. The taking of buses to community activities continues to be successful. Travel training continues to be popular. ADA boardings are up. The new M Cards and fare boxes are being rolled out. New bus pads were created at record levels in 2014. The County Board is proposing to have FREE rides on the buses for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Discussion took place regarding the agreement between Milwaukee County and Southridge for bus stops on the mall property.

### ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES



**ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (October)**

In addition to the report in the packet, Mr. Ochnikowski indicated that the Office's 2015 Requested Budget passed the County Board Finance Committee unanimously. Further, the lease with Goodwill for Wil-O-Way Underwood passed the County Board Human Needs Committee unanimously. The office is rolling out an awareness campaign for January through July of 2015 that highlights the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This campaign and more was presented to the County Executive's Cabinet at their recent meeting.

**ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS**

Mr. Bonk indicated that he's working on enhancing the opportunities for members in the WOW Key Card program. We're looking into highlighting the benefits of the key card program more as a way to encourage more membership. The recently conducted recreation survey has given us some results to think about. The recreation contract with Easter Seals ends at the end of 2015. We're looking at a redesign of the program. Discussion took place regarding theater tickets, sports tickets and the My Team Triumph opportunity.

Chair Deb Falk-Palec asked Commissioners Arroyo and Walz-Chojnacki to think about a committee or committee's that they'd like to become involved with and to let her know their wished. Contact staff if you have any questions regarding the committees.

**ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner McGrath indicated that the Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement (ABLE) program will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 29, 2015.

**ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC****ITEM XI ADJOURN**

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:26pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, December 8, 2014 at 1:00pm at St. John's Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk & Tim Ochnikowski, Staff to the Commission